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the Department of the Navy and members of committees of the United States Congress and their staffs which are necessary in the transaction of official Government business (except appropriations matters) affecting the Department of the Navy; and

(b) Furnish staff support, advice and assistance to the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps and all other principal civilian and military officials of the Department of the Navy concerning congressional aspects of the Department of the Navy policies, plans and programs (except appropriations matters).

§ 700.336 The Director, Office of Program Appraisal.

(a) The Director, Office of Program Appraisal, directs, under the immediate supervision of the Secretary of the Navy, the Office of Program Appraisal.

(b) The Office of Program Appraisal will assist the Secretary in assuring that existing and proposed Navy and Marine Corps programs provide the optimum means of achieving the objectives of the Department of the Navy.

§ 700.337 The Auditor General.

(a) The Auditor General of the Navy is responsible for:

(1) Serving as Director of the Naval Audit Service; and

(2) Developing and implementing Navy internal audit policies, programs and procedures within the framework of Government auditing standards.

(b) The Auditor General can provide information and may provide assistance and support to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps to enable them to discharge their duties and responsibilities.

Subpart D—The Chief of Naval Operations

§ 700.401 Precedence.

The Chief of Naval Operations, while so serving, has the grade of admiral. In the performance of duties within the Department of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations takes precedence above all other officers of the naval

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service, except an officer of the naval service who is serving as Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

§ 700.402 Succession.

When there is a vacancy in the position of Chief of Naval Operations, or during the absence or disability of the Chief of Naval Operations:

(a) The Vice Chief of Naval Operations shall perform the duties of the Chief of Naval Operations until a successor is appointed or the absence or disability ceases.

(b) If there is a vacancy in the position of Vice Chief of Naval Operations or the Vice Chief of Naval Operations is absent or disabled, unless the President directs otherwise, the most senior officer of the Navy in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations who is not absent or disabled and who is not restricted in the performance of duty shall perform the duties of the Chief of Naval Operations until a successor to the Chief of Naval Operations or the Vice Chief of Naval Operations is appointed or until the absence or disability of the Chief of Naval Operations or Vice Chief of Naval Operations ceases, whichever occurs first.

§ 700.403 Statutory authority and responsibility of the Chief of Naval Operations.

(a) Except as otherwise prescribed by law, and subject to the statutory authority of the Secretary of the Navy to assign functions, powers and duties, the Chief of Naval Operations performs duties under the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of the Navy and is directly responsible to the Secretary.

(b) Subject to the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations shall:

(1) Preside over the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations;

(2) Transmit the plans and recommendations of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations to the Secretary and advise the Secretary with regard to such plans and recommendations;

(3) After approval of the plans or recommendations of the Office of the

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Chief of Naval Operations by the Secretary, act as the agent of the Secretary in carrying them into effect;

(4) Exercise supervision, consistent with the statutory authority assigned to commanders of unified or specified combatant commands, over such of the members and organizations of the Navy and the Marine Corps as the Secretary determines;

(5) Perform the duties prescribed for a member of the Armed Forces Policy Council and other statutory duties; and

(6) Perform such other military duties, not otherwise assigned by law, as are assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations by the President, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of the Navy.

(c) The Chief of Naval Operations shall also perform the statutory duties prescribed for a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(1) To the extent that such action does not impair the independence of the Chief of Naval Operations in the performance of duties as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Naval Operations shall inform the Secretary of the Navy regarding military advice rendered by members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters affecting the Department of the Navy.

(2) Subject to the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of Defense, the Chief of Naval Operations shall keep the Secretary of the Navy fully informed of significant military operations affecting the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Navy.

§ 700.404 Statutory authority and responsibility of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

(a) The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations shall furnish professional assistance to the Secretary, the Under Secretary and the Assistant Secretaries of the Navy, and to the Chief of Naval Operations. Under the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of the Navy, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations shall:

(1) Subject to § 700.311(a), prepare for such employment of the Navy, and for such recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping (including those aspects of research and development assigned by

the Secretary of the Navy), training, servicing, mobilizing, demobilizing, administering, and maintaining of the Navy, as will assist in the execution of any power, duty or function of the Secretary or the Chief of Naval Operations;

(2) Investigate and report upon the efficiency of the Navy and its preparation to support military operations by combatant commands;

(3) Prepare detailed instructions for the execution of approved plans and supervise the execution of those plans and instructions;

(4) As directed by the Secretary or the Chief of Naval Operations, coordinate the action of organizations of the Navy; and

(5) Perform such other duties, not otherwise assigned by law, as may be prescribed by the Secretary.

(b) Except as otherwise specifically prescribed by law, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations shall be organized in such manner, and its members shall perform such duties and have such titles as the Secretary may prescribe.

§ 700.405 Delegated authority and responsibility.

(a) The Chief of Naval Operations is the principal naval advisor and naval executive to the Secretary of the Navy on the conduct of the naval activities of the Department of the Navy.

(b)(1) Internal to the administration of the Department of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, consistent with the statutory authority assigned to commanders of unified or specified combatant commands, under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, shall command:

(i) The operating forces of the Navy; and

(ii) Such shore activities as may be assigned by the Secretary.

(2) The Chief of Naval Operations shall be responsible to the Secretary of the Navy for the Utilization of resources by, and the operating efficiency of, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, the Operating Forces of the Navy and assigned shore activities.